UNITED NATIONS

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General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/50/303
S/1995/603
21 July 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fiftieth session
Items 39, 75 and 81 of the
preliminary list*
LAW OF THE SEA
STRENGTHENING OF SECURITY AND COOPERATION
IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION
MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fiftieth year

Letter dated 20 July 1995 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

My Government had wished not to carry on the correspondence on the issue of the recent Turkish threats against my country, which were brought to your attention by Ambassador Christos Zacharakis in his letters dated 21 and 29 June 1995 (A/50/256-S/1995/505 and A/50/264-S/1995/526). However, I am compelled to come back to this matter, hopefully for the last time, since some points contained in the letter dated 12 July 1995 addressed to you by the Permanent Representative of Turkey (A/50/279-S/1995/568) cannot be ignored.

Once again, Turkey does not even attempt to conceal the threatening and expansionist views which it harbours against my country, in blatant violation of international law and the Charter of the United Nations. Furthermore, it continues to stand by its persistent practice of distorting historical facts and the fundamental principles of Greek foreign policy. In this context, Turkey misrepresents the struggle for freedom of the Greek people who, like other Balkan nations, were subjugated under Ottoman rule for more than four centuries, as its expansionist policy at Greek expense.

As regards the fallacious and slanderous allegations contained in the letter, concerning my country's stance on the issue of terrorism, I will not limit myself to a flat and categorical contradiction, taking also into account

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the fact that no probative evidence whatsoever substantiating the charges has ever been produced. I would like to add, on this point, that Turkey should first make sure that it has cleared up the shambles in its own back yard by restoring democratic freedoms for the whole of its population before it attempts to find scapegoats and to export the internal problems created by its own policies. This would serve not only the goal of stability in the area, but also the interests of Turkey, which takes satisfaction in picturing itself as a model of a secular State that nourishes the ambition to promote its relations with the European Union.

Finally, as regards Turkey's "readiness to engage in a process of dialogue" with Greece, I would like to point out that such a dialogue can only be meaningful and worthy of its name if all parties to it refrain from threats, unfounded allegations and provocative violations of fundamental principles of international law. Unfortunately, Turkey's behaviour gives ample proof that its "readiness for dialogue" is not an exercise in honesty and good intentions, but rather in propaganda.

I would like to request that this letter be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under items 39, 75 and 81 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vassilis KASKARELIS
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.